

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

Violent Death
Reporting System
New Hanover County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes findings from New Hanover County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

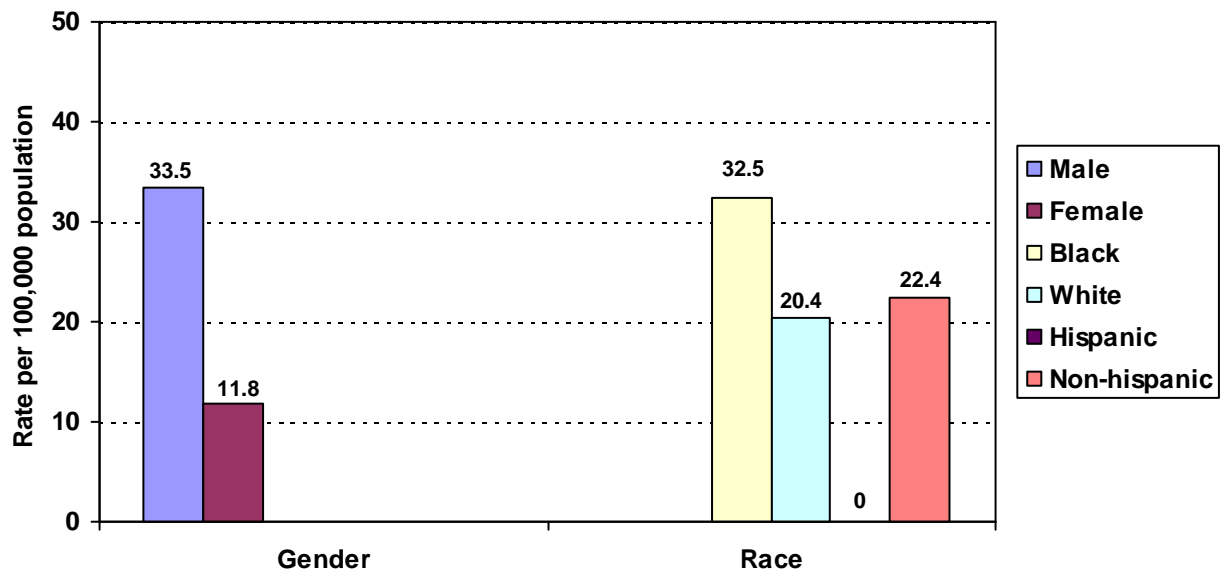
This report was supported in part by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U17CE423098-07 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SECTION I: OVERALL

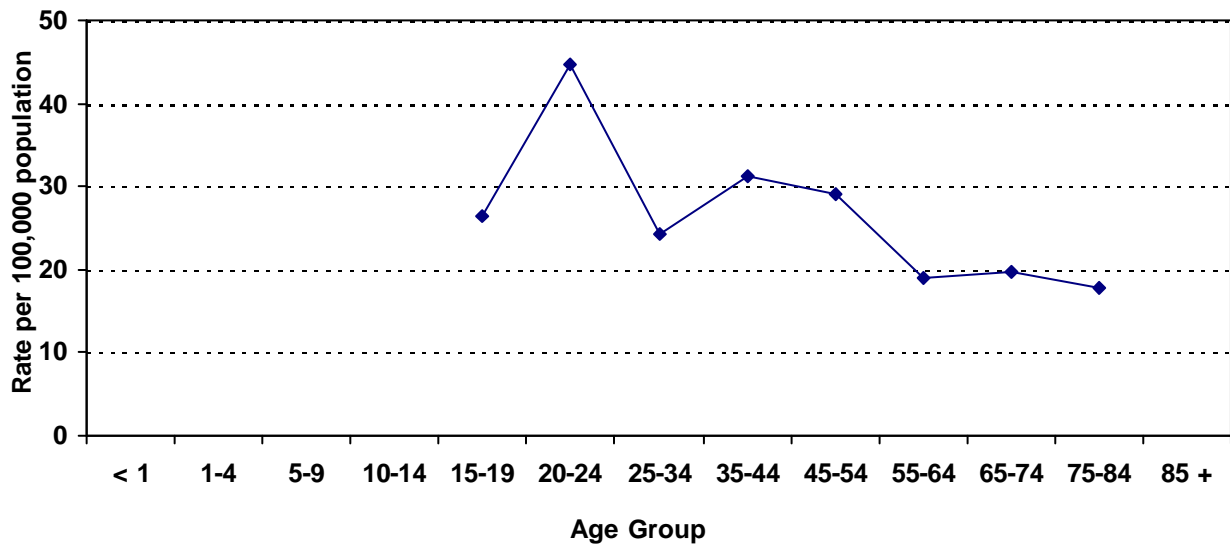
Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	119	72.6	33.5	27.5 - 39.5
	Female	45	27.4	11.8	8.3 - 15.3
Race					
	American Indian	2	1.2	*	*
	Asian	0	0	*	*
	Black	39	23.8	32.5	22.3 - 42.7
	White	123	75.0	20.4	16.8 – 24.0
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	4	2.4	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	160	97.6	22.4	18.9 - 25.9
Age Group					
	< 1	0	0	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	1	0.6	*	*
	15 - 19	13	7.9	26.5	12.1 - 40.9
	20 - 24	27	16.5	44.6	27.8 - 61.4
	25 - 34	26	15.9	24.3	15.0 - 33.6
	35 - 44	33	20.1	31.3	20.6 – 42.0
	45 - 54	30	18.3	29.1	18.7 - 39.5
	55 - 64	16	9.8	19.1	9.7 - 28.5
	65 - 74	10	6.1	19.7	7.5 - 31.9
	75 - 84	6	3.7	17.9	3.5 - 32.3
	85 +	2	1.2	*	*
Total Deaths		164	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Overall Violent Death Rates by Age, New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

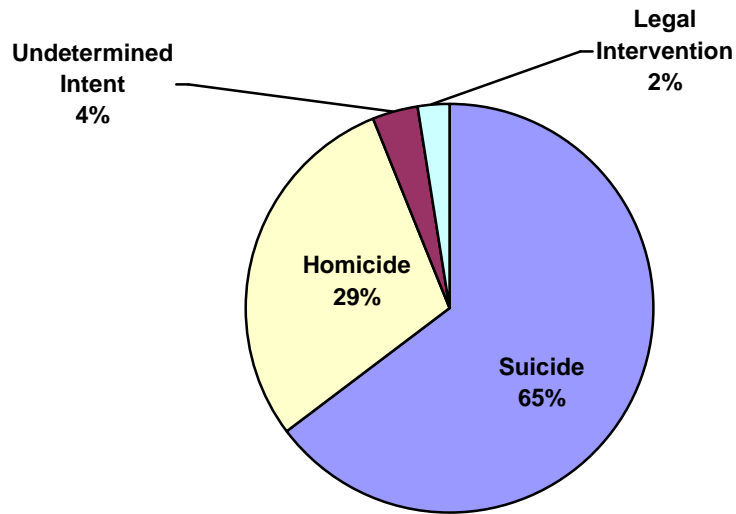


Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

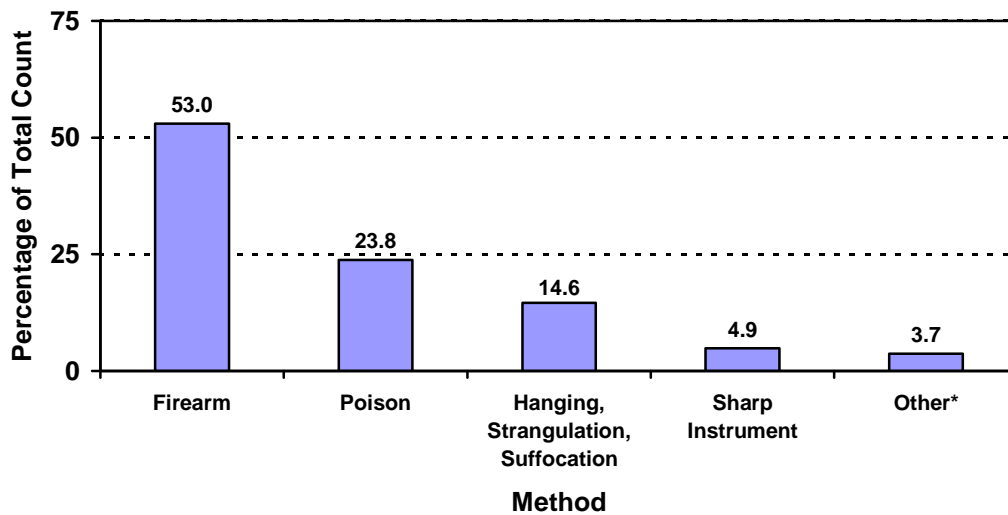
**Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	106	64.6
	Homicide	48	29.3
	Undetermined Intent	6	3.7
	Legal Intervention	4	2.4
Method			
	Firearm	87	53.0
	Poisoning	39	23.8
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	24	14.6
	Sharp Instrument	8	4.9
	Unarmed Assault	3	1.8
	Drowning	1	0.6
	Motor Vehicle	1	0.6
	Unknown	1	0.6
Total Deaths		164	100

**Manner of Violent Death,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



**Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	2	1.7	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.2
Black	34	28.6	62.3	41.4 - 83.2	5	11.1	7.7	1.0 - 14.4	39	23.8
White	83	69.7	28.1	22.0 - 34.2	40	88.9	13	9.0 - 17.0	123	75.0
Total Deaths	119	100			45	100			164	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

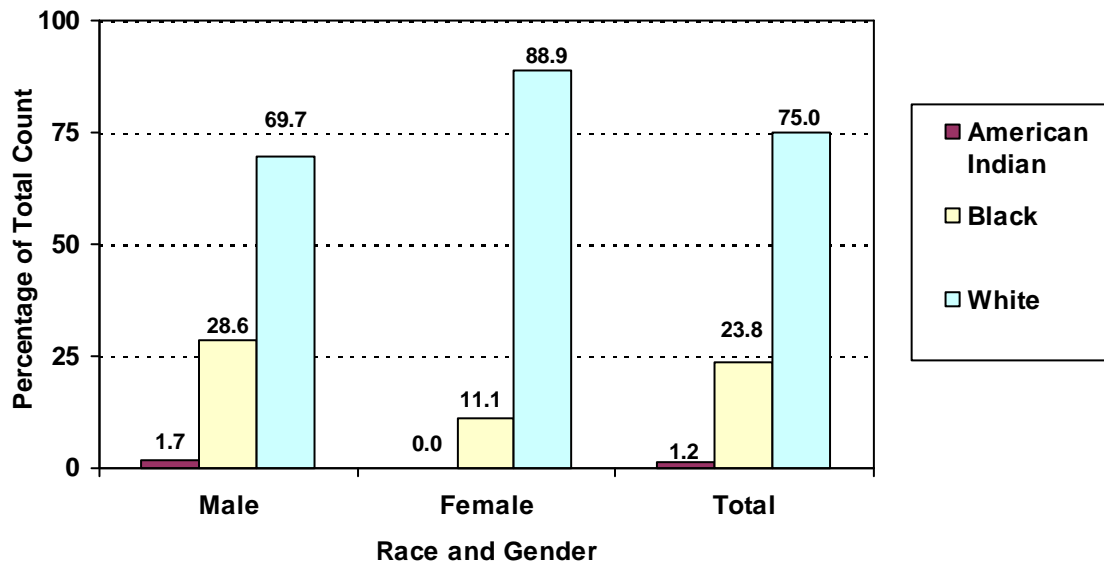
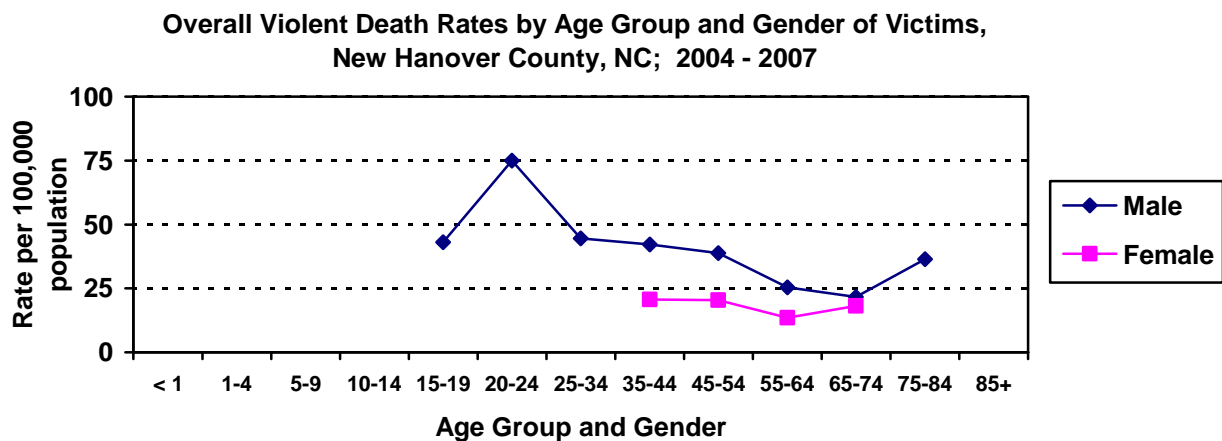


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
1 - 4	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
10 - 14	1	0.8	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.6
15 - 19	10	8.4	43.0	16.3 - 69.7	3	6.7	*	*	13	7.9
20 - 24	23	19.3	75.0	44.4 - 105.6	4	8.9	*	*	27	16.5
25 - 34	24	20.2	44.5	26.7 - 62.3	2	4.4	*	*	26	15.9
35 - 44	22	18.5	42.2	24.6 - 59.8	11	24.4	20.6	8.4 - 32.8	33	20.1
45 - 54	19	16.0	38.8	21.4 - 56.2	11	24.4	20.4	8.3 - 32.5	30	18.3
55 - 64	10	8.4	25.4	9.6 - 41.2	6	13.3	13.5	2.7 - 24.3	16	9.8
65 - 74	5	4.2	21.7	2.7 - 40.7	5	11.1	18.1	2.3 - 33.9	10	6.1
75 - 84	5	4.2	36.4	4.5 - 68.3	1	2.2	*	*	6	3.7
85 +	0	0	*	*	2	4.4	*	*	2	1.2
Total Deaths	119	100			45	100			164	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	75	70.8	24.2	18.7 - 29.7
	Female	31	29.2	9.2	6.0 - 12.4
Race					
	American Indian	1	0.9	*	*
	Asian	0	0	*	*
	Black	5	4.7	4.9	0.6 - 9.2
	White	100	94.3	18.7	15.0 - 22.4
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	3	2.8	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	103	97.2	16.3	13.1 - 19.5
Age Group					
	10 - 14	1	0.9	*	*
	15 - 19	3	2.8	*	*
	20 - 24	11	10.4	18.2	7.5 - 28.9
	25 - 34	16	15.1	15.0	7.7 - 22.3
	35 - 44	23	21.7	21.8	12.9 - 30.7
	45 - 54	23	21.7	22.3	13.2 - 31.4
	55 - 64	14	13.2	16.7	7.9 - 25.5
	65 - 74	8	7.5	15.8	4.9 - 26.7
	75 - 84	5	4.7	14.9	1.8 - 28.0
	85 +	2	1.9	*	*
Total Deaths		106	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

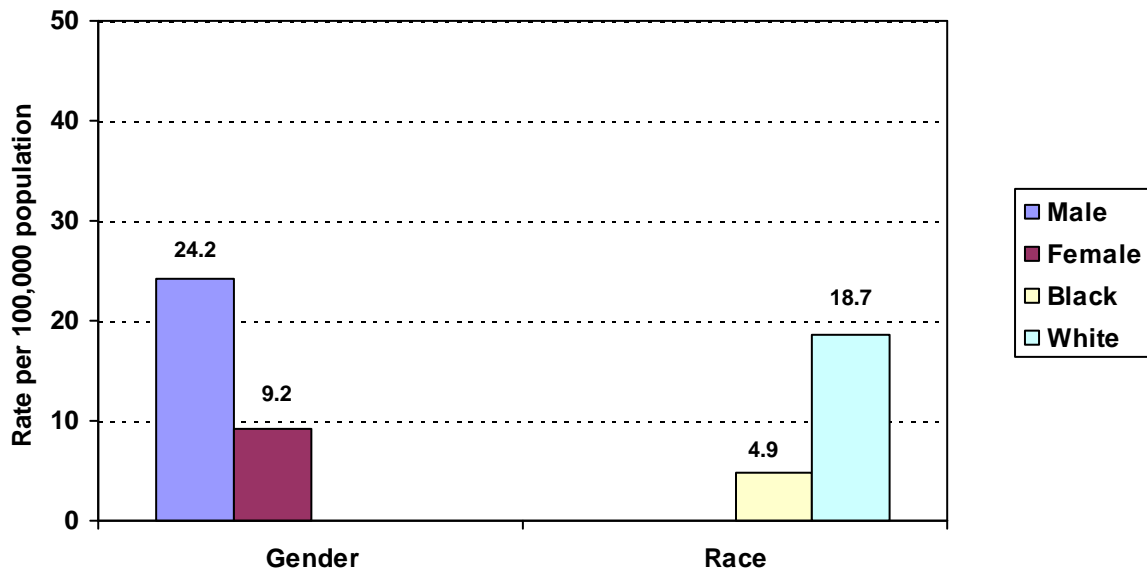
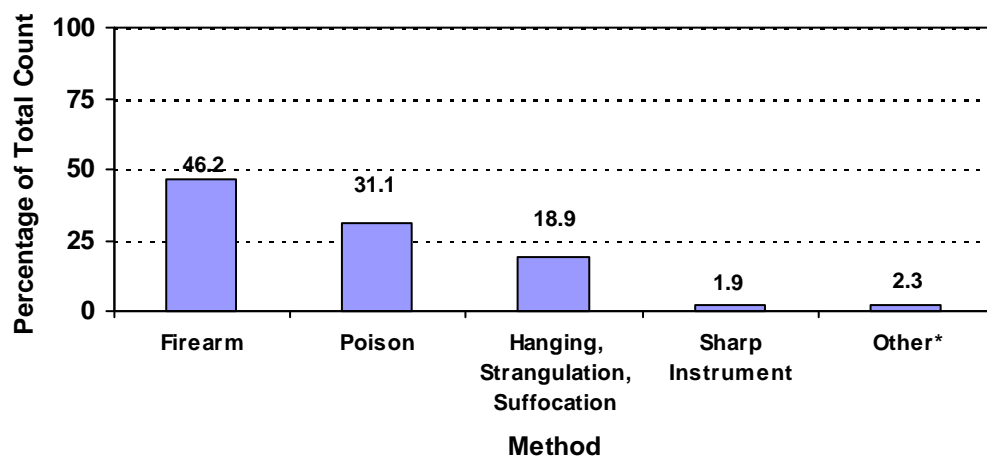


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	49	46.2
	Poisoning	33	31.1
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	20	18.9
	Sharp Instrument	2	1.9
	Drowning	1	0.9
	Unknown	1	0.9
Total Deaths		106	100

**Method of Death for Suicide Deaths,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, drowning, fires or burns, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	1.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.9
Black	5	6.7	11.1	1.4 - 20.8	0	0	*	*	5	4.7
White	69	92	26.5	20.2 - 32.8	31	100.0	11.3	7.3 - 15.3	100	94.3

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

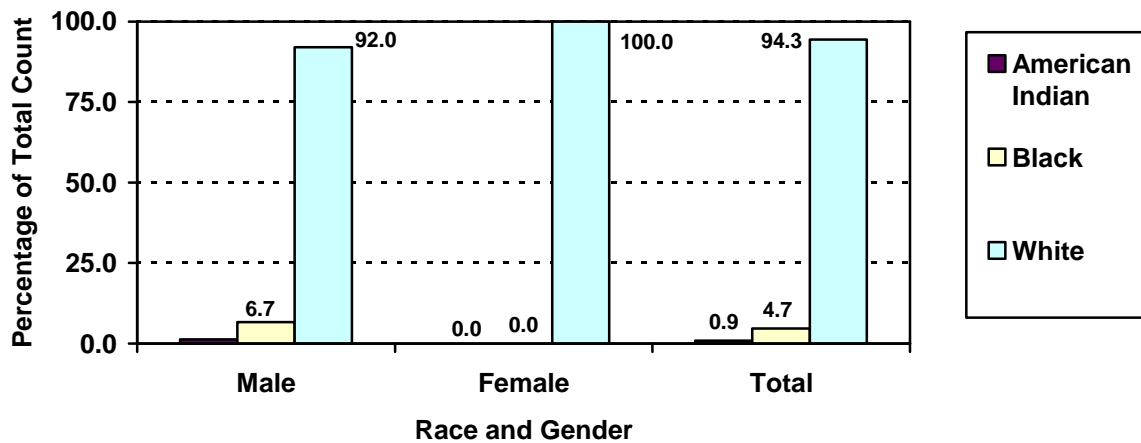
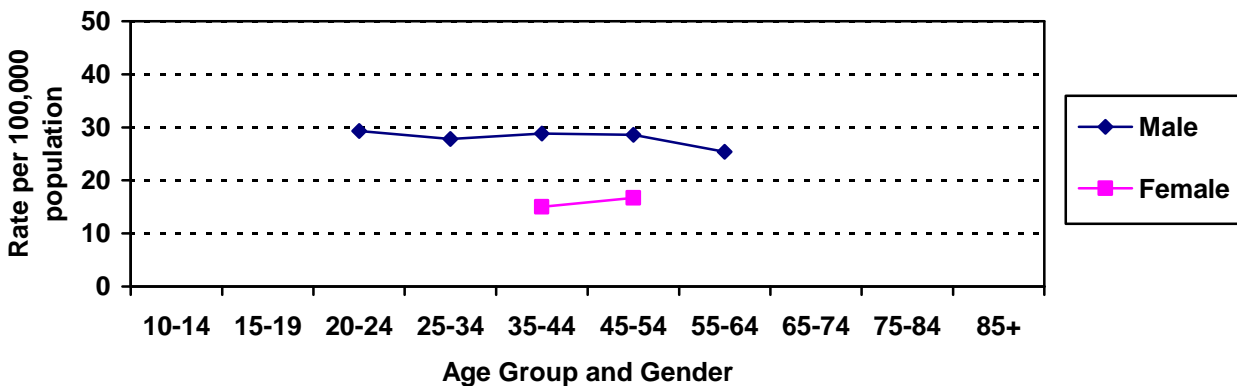


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
10 - 14	1	1.3	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.9
15 - 19	3	4.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	2.8
20 - 24	9	12.0	29.3	10.1 - 48.5	2	6.5	*	*	11	10.4
25 - 34	15	20.0	27.8	13.7 - 41.9	1	3.2	*	*	16	15.1
35 - 44	15	20.0	28.8	14.2 - 43.4	8	25.8	15.0	4.6 - 25.4	23	21.7
45 - 54	14	18.7	28.6	13.6 - 43.6	9	29.0	16.7	5.8 - 27.6	23	21.7
55 - 64	10	13.3	25.4	9.6 - 41.2	4	12.9	*	*	14	13.2
65 - 74	4	5.3	*	*	4	12.9	*	*	8	7.5
75 - 84	4	5.3	*	*	1	3.2	*	*	5	4.7
85 +	0	0	*	*	2	6.5	*	*	2	1.9
Total Deaths	75	100			31	100			106	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



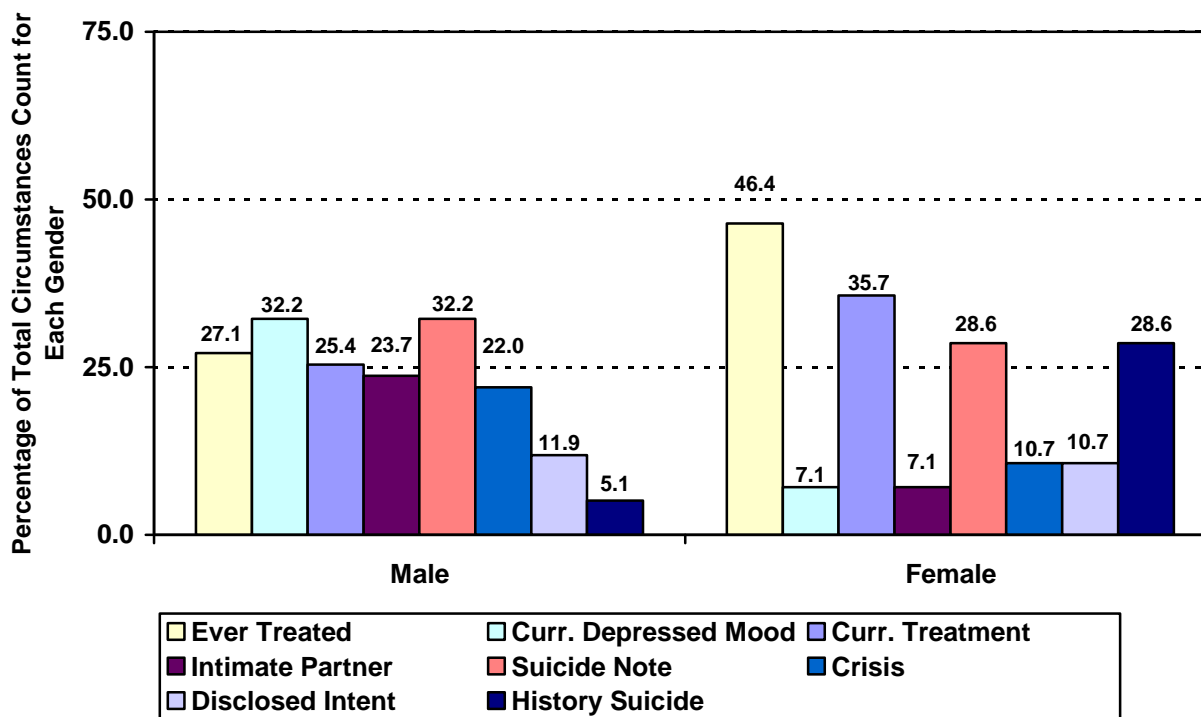
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	19	32.2	2	7.1	21	24.1
Current treatment for mental illness	15	25.4	10	35.7	25	28.7
Ever treated for mental illness	16	27.1	13	46.4	29	33.3
Alcohol problem	3	5.1	6	21.4	9	10.3
Other substance problem	4	6.8	6	21.4	10	11.5
Left a suicide note	19	32.2	8	28.6	27	31.0
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	7	11.9	3	10.7	10	11.5
History of suicide attempts	3	5.1	8	28.6	11	12.6
Crisis in past two weeks	13	22.0	3	10.7	16	18.4
Physical health problem	6	10.2	3	10.7	9	10.3
Intimate partner problem	14	23.7	2	7.1	16	18.4
Other relationship problem	1	1.7	1	3.6	2	2.3
Job problem	4	6.8	0	0	4	4.6
School problem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial problem	3	5.1	0	0	3	3.4
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other death of friend/ family	1	1.7	0	0	1	1.1
Recent criminal/ legal problem	4	6.8	0	0	4	4.6
Other legal problems	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	4	6.8	0	0	4	4.6
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

**Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

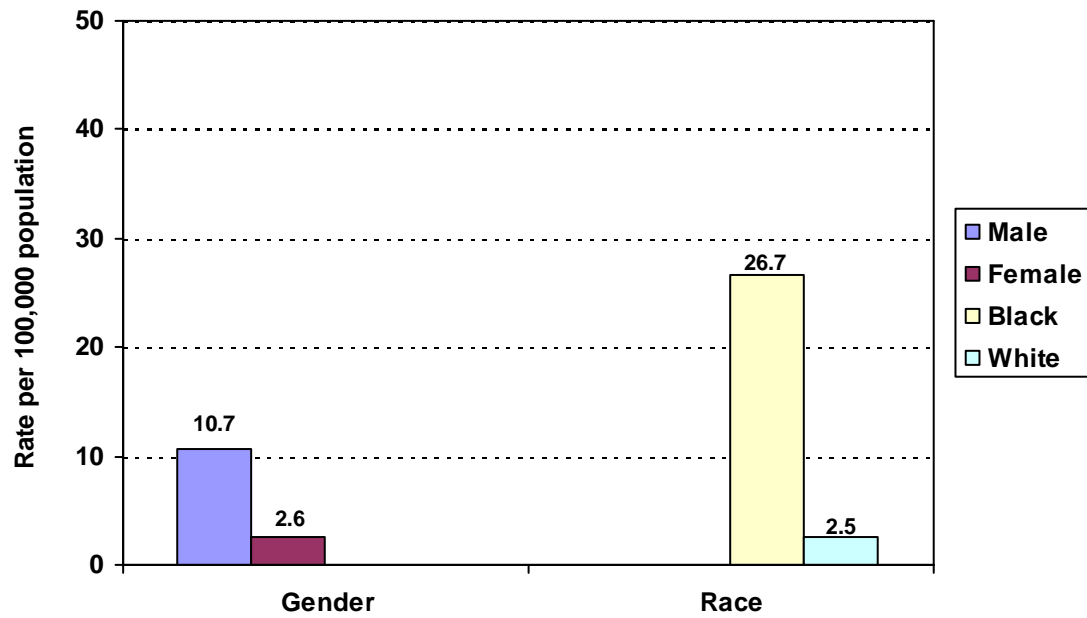
Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	13	9	22
Bipolar Disorder	3	2	5
Unknown	0	1	1

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	38	79.2	10.7	7.3 - 14.1
	Female	10	20.8	2.6	1.0 - 4.2
Race					
	American Indian	1	2.1	*	*
	Asian	0	0	*	*
	Black	32	66.7	26.7	17.5 - 35.9
	White	15	31.3	2.5	1.2 - 3.8
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	1	2.1	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	47	97.9	6.6	4.7 - 8.5
Age Group					
	< 1	0	0	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	0	0	*	*
	15 - 19	8	16.7	16.3	5.0 - 27.6
	20 - 24	15	31.3	24.8	12.3 - 37.3
	25 - 34	10	20.8	9.4	3.6 - 15.2
	35 - 44	9	18.8	8.5	2.9 - 14.1
	45 - 54	3	6.3	*	*
	55 - 64	0	0	*	*
	65 - 74	2	4.2	*	*
	75 - 84	1	2.1	*	*
	85 +	0	0	*	*
Total Deaths		48	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

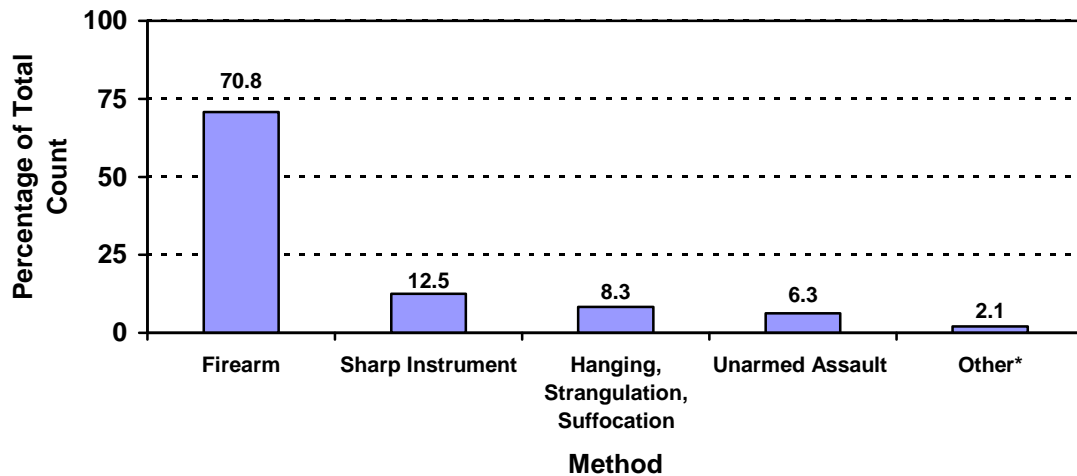
Homicide Rates by Gender and Race, New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007



**Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

Method		Number	%
	Firearm	34	70.8
	Sharp Instrument	6	12.5
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	4	8.3
	Unarmed Assault	3	6.3
	Motor Vehicle	1	2.1
Total Deaths		48	100

**Method of Death for Homicide Deaths,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, falls, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	1	2.6	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	2.1
Black	28	73.7	51.3	32.3 - 70.3	4	40.0	*	*	32	66.7
White	9	23.7	3.1	1.1 - 5.1	6	60.0	1.9	0.3 - 3.5	15	31.3

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

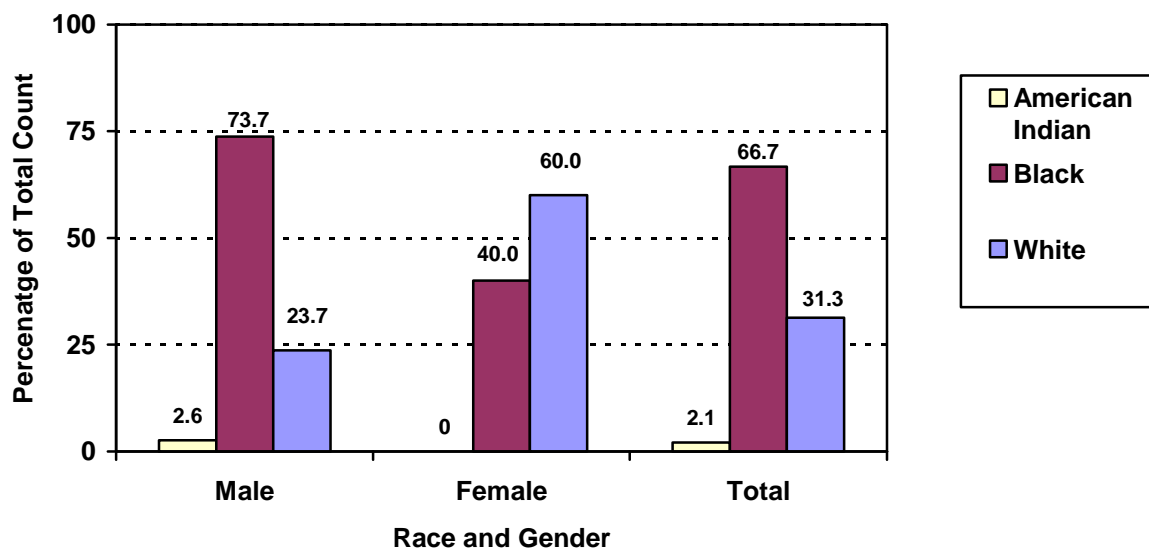
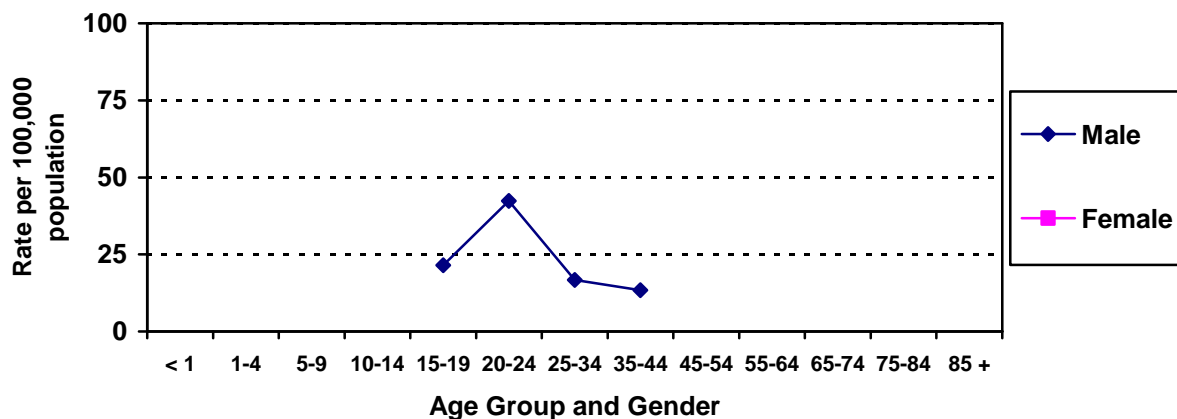


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
1 - 4	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
10 - 14	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
15 - 19	5	13.2	21.5	2.7 - 40.3	3	30.0	*	*	8	16.7
20 - 24	13	34.2	42.4	19.4 - 65.4	2	20.0	*	*	15	31.3
25 - 34	9	23.7	16.7	5.8 - 27.6	1	10.0	*	*	10	20.8
35 - 44	7	18.4	13.4	3.4 - 23.4	2	20.0	*	*	9	18.8
45 - 54	2	5.3	*	*	1	10.0	*	*	3	6.3
55 - 64	0	0	*	*	0	0	*	*	0	0
65 - 74	1	2.6	*	*	1	10.0	*	*	2	4.2
75 - 84	1	2.6	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	2.1
Total Deaths	38	100			10	100			48	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	13	36.1
	Intimate partner violence related	9	25.0
	Precipitated by another serious crime	8	22.2
	Drug involvement	5	13.9
	Argument over money or property	1	2.8
	Gang related	1	2.8
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	5	13.9
	Justifiable self defense	2	5.6

*The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Robbery	4	0	4
Burglary	2	0	2
Rape, Sexual Assault	0	2	2
Gambling	1	0	1

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death											
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	49	46.2	34	70.8	0	0	4	100.0	0	0	87	53.0
Sharp Instrument	2	1.9	6	12.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.9
Poisoning	33	31.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	100.0	39	23.8
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	20	18.9	4	8.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	14.6
Unarmed Assault	0	0	3	6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.8
Drowning	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.6
Motor Vehicle	0	0	1	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.6
Unknown	1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.6
Total Deaths	106	100	48	100	0	0	4	100	6	100	164	100

Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in New Hanover County, NC; 2004 - 2007										
<i>For Firearm Deaths only</i>										
Firearm Type	Manner of Death									
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	38	77.6	27	79.4	0	0	3	75.0	68	78.2
Rifle	1	2.0	2	5.9	0	0	0	0	3	3.4
Shotgun	10	20.4	3	8.8	0	0	0	0	13	14.9
Unknown Firearm Type	0	0	2	5.9	0	0	1	25.0	3	3.4
Total Deaths	49	100	34	100	0	0	4	100	87	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as count x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

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